However, in view of the apprehensions expressed from different quarters and the continued agitation of the Narmada Bachao Andolan against the decision of the Narmada Control Authority according permission to raise the height of Sardar Sarovar Dam from EL 110.64 m to EL 121.92 m, the Hon'ble Prime Minister deputed a Group of Union Ministers to examine the ground situation in the submergence area of the project and the rehabilitation sites in Madhya Pradesh on 6-7th April, 2006.

A meeting of the Review Committee of Narmada Control Authority was held on 15th April, 2006 to review the decision taken by the NCA in its meeting on 8th March, 2006 for according permission to raise the height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam in view of the report of the Group of Ministers. As no consensus could be arrived at on the matters discussed in the meeting, the matter was reported to the Hon'ble Prime Minster. The Hon'ble Prime Minister, in response to the reference made by the Hon'ble Minister (WR) and observations of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its Order dated 17th April, 2006, decided to constitute Sardar Sarovar Project Resettlement & Rehabilitation Oversight Group (OSG) headed by Shri V.K. Shunglu to verify the status of rehabilitation in Madhya Pradesh of the families affected by raising the height of the dam from EL 110.64 m to EL 121.92 m as per the approved design. The OSG has investigated the matter and submitted its report as per the terms of reference to the Hon'ble Minister (WR) on 3rd July, 2006. The Hon'ble Minister (WR) submitted the Report to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 3rd July, 2006. The decision taken by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 8th July, 2006 on the Report of OSG was filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India along with the Report of the OSG on 10th July, 2006, as per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its Order dated 8th May, 2006 in the matter of Civil Writ Petition No. 328 of 2002.

Rehabilitation in Narmada Valley

1636. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Group of Ministers have already submitted a report to him on the failure of rehabilitation in the Narmada valley;

(b) if so, what necessitated Government to constitute a new Committee headed by V.K. Shunglu and asked to conduct a survey through NSSO from May 19 to June 19, 2006 and recommend ways and means to complete rehabilitation within three months;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report; and

(d) if so, the details of findings of the survey and recommendations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The Narmada Control Authority based on the clearances given by its Sub-Groups and fulfillment of the requirements laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court gives permission to raising of the Sardar Sarovar Dam height in stages. The NCA gave permission to raise the height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam from EL 110.64 m to EL 121.92 m in the 76th Emergency meeting held on 8.3.2006, after following the precedure laid down in the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal Award and Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 18th October, 2000 and 15th March, 2005.

However, in view of the apprehensions expressed from different quarters and the continued agitation of the Narmada Bachao Andolan against the decision of the Narmada Control Authority for according permission to raise the height of Sardar Sarovar Dam from EL 110.64 m to EL 121.92 m, the Hon'ble Prime Minister deputed a Group of Union Ministers to examine the ground situation in the submergence area of the project and the rehabilitation sites, in Madhya Pradesh, on 6-7th April, 2006.

A meeting of the Review Committee of Narmada Control Authority was held on 15th April, 2006 to review the decision taken by the NCA in its meeting on 8th March, 2006 for according permission to raise the height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam based on the report of the Group of Ministers. As no Consensus could be arrived at, on the matters discussed in the meeting, the matter was reported to the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister, in response to the reference made by the Hon'ble Minister (WR) and observations of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its Order dated 17th April, 2006, decided to constitute

Sardar Sarovar Project Resettlement & Rehabilitation Oversight Group (OSG) headed by Shri V.K. Shunglu to verify the status of rehabilitation in Madhya Pradesh of the families affected by raising the height of the dam from EL 110.64 m to EL 121.92 m as per the approved design.

(c) and (d) The OSG has investigated the matter and submitted its report as per the terms of reference to the Hon'ble Minister (WR) on 3rd July, 2006. The Hon'ble Minister (WR) submitted the Report to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 3rd July, 2006. The decision taken by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 8th July, 2006 on the Report of OSG was filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India along with the Report of the OSG on 10th July, 2006, as per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its Order dated 8th May, 2006 in the matter of Civil Writ Petition No. 328 of 2002.

The Supreme Court of India heard the matter on 10th July, 2006. The Court directed the parties to file their response to the Report within three weeks and replies thereto within three weeks thereafter. The case has been listed for September 2006. Meanwhile, directions have been issued to Government of Madhya Pradesh to expedite the works on the Resettlement and Rehabilitation sites and to take measures as directed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Achankovil Vaippar Link Project

1637. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to divert water from Pamba and Achankovil rivers of Kerala to the Vaippar basin of Tamil Nadu under Achankovil Vaippar Link Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the above proposal;

(c) if so, whether there are many representations from Competent Authority of Kerala during the year 2003 and 2006 for dropping above proposal; and

(d) if so, the present status of the above representations?